

REMARKS

The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 75, 76, and 77 is allowable. See Office Action at p. 9. The Office Action rejects claims 54, 56, 57, 74, and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Id. at p. 3. Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, 58-62, 68, 70, and 71 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Waldron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,157,545). Id. at p. 4. The Office Action also rejects claims 43, 44, 69, and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldron in view of Takagi (Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0153083). Id. at p. 5. Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 65-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mancini (Published International Patent Application No. WO 02/000421) in view of Okada (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,826). Id. at p. 6. The Office Action also rejects claims 68 and 70-74 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and/or 103(a) based on Solbeck or Andreevskaya. Id. at p. 7. Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 68, 70, 71, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pedersen (GB 815,413). Id. at p. 8. The Office Action also rejects claims 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldron and Solbeck. Id. Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 63 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Solbeck and Colson (Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0074591). Id. at p. 9.

By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 75 into independent form. Additionally, Applicant has amended independent claims 42, 65, and 68, as well as dependent claims 53, 54, 56, 74, and 77. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled claims 55 and 79-81. Applicant has also added new claims 83-85, which depend from

independent claims 42 and 68. Claims 42-54, 56-78, and 82-85 are currently pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the originally filed application and drawings fully support the amendments to the claims.

Claims 75-77

Regarding claims 75-77, the Office Action states:

Claims 75 and 76 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Likewise, claim 77 would be allowable if amended to avoid the 112 rejection.

Office Action at p. 9. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 75 to be in independent form. Additionally, as discussed in greater detail below, Applicant has amended claim 77 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 75-77 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 54, 56, 57, 74, and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 54 under § 112 because of the claim language “translating a pusher element onto the forming support,” asserting that this claim language “would require an axial movement of the pusher element.” Office Action at p. 3. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 54 in a manner that eliminates the language objected to by the Office Action. Additionally, contrary to the implication of the Office Action, Applicant notes that the specification of the present application demonstrates that a pusher element can apply axial thrust to coils of an elongated element by moving in manners other than axially, including, for example, by moving

concentrically of the geometric axis. See Applicant's Specification at p. 14, l. 28-p. 16, l. 1; and Figs. 1 and 3.

The Office Action rejects claims 56, 57, and 74 under § 112 due to lack of antecedent basis for certain terms in claims 56 and 74. See Office Action at p. 3. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claims 56 and 74 to address these issues.

In the rejection of claim 77 under § 112, the Office Action states "the reference to the force directed 'to' the forming support is ambiguous in this context. It would seem clearer if changed to for example 'toward'." Office Action at p. 3. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 77 consistent with the suggestion of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 54, 56, 74, and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Rejection of Claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, 58-62, 68, 70, and 71 under 35 U.S.C.
§ 102(b) Based on Waldron**

Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron does not anticipate claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, 58-62, 68, 70, and 71. In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every feature of the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131. Each of the foregoing claims includes features that distinguish over Waldron. For example, a process according to any of claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, and 58-62 includes, *inter alia*, "translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis with the pusher element" (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron fails to teach or suggest at least these claim features. Waldron discloses producing lengths 20, 21 of bias-cut ply fabric

by making and cutting a tubular length 18 of rubberised fabric material. Col. 4, l. 31-col. 5, l. 27. Waldron forms the tubular length 18 of rubberised fabric by winding a rubberised fabric strip 17 around drums 2, 3. The Office Action correlates Waldron's drums 2, 3 to the claimed "forming support." See Office Action at p. 4. Waldron feeds the tubular length 18 of rubberised fabric downward from drums 2, 3. However, Waldron does not do so by "by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the [drums 2, 3] to push the coils along said geometric axis with the pusher element" as recited in the claims. Rather, Waldron moves the tubular length of rubberised fabric down by rotating the drums 2, 3. See, e.g., col. 4, ll. 45-52; and Fig. 1. Thus, Waldron does not anticipate claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, and 58-62.

Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron also fails to anticipate claims 68, 70, and 71 for similar reasons. An apparatus according to any of claims 68, 70, and 71 includes, *inter alia*, "at least one device for translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region, wherein said at least one device for translating includes at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron fails to teach or suggest these claim features for reasons similar to those discussed above that Waldron fails to teach or suggest similar features of claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, and 58-62.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron does not anticipate claims 42, 45-47, 52-54, 56, 58-62, 68, 70, and 71. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Waldron.

Rejection of Claims 43, 44, 69, and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Waldron and Takagi

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 43, 44, 69, and 82 are non-obvious over Waldron and Takagi. Establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness requires consideration of every claim feature. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. A process according to either of claims 43 and 44 includes, *inter alia*, “translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis with the pusher element” (emphasis added). Similarly, an apparatus according to either of claims 69 and 82 includes, *inter alia*, “at least one device for translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region, wherein said at least one device for translating includes at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis” (emphasis added). As discussed above, Waldron fails to teach or suggest these claim features. Takagi, cited for its disclosure of using an extruder to form a rubberised fabric strip (Office Action at p. 5), fails to cure the foregoing deficiencies of Waldron.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron and Takagi cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 43, 44, 69, and 82. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Waldron and Takagi.

Rejection of Claims 65-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Mancini and Okada

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 65-67 are non-obvious over Mancini and Okada. Claim 65 previously recited “wherein preparation of at least one element

selected between said at least one carcass ply and said at least one belt layer comprises the step of cutting a section of predetermined length from a continuous semifinished product obtained from a process as claimed in claim 42.” Regarding this language, the Office Action states “claim 65 does *not* require practicing of the claim 42 method.” Office Action at p. 6 (emphasis in original).

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this assertion of the Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 65 to affirmatively recite features recited in claim 42, including “translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis with the pusher element.” The Office Action does not assert that Mancini or Okada teaches or suggests these claim features, and Applicant respectfully submits that Mancini and Okada fail to teach or suggest these claim features.

Thus, Mancini and Okada cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 65-67. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Mancini and Okada.

Rejection of Claims 68 and 70-74 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and/or 103(a) Based on Solbeck or Andreevskaya

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 68, 70, and 71-74 are novel and non-obvious over Solbeck and Andreevskaya. An apparatus according to any of claims 68, 70, and 71-74 includes, *inter alia*, “at least one device for translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region, wherein said at least one device for translating includes at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the forming support

to push the coils along said geometric axis" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that Solbeck and Andreevskaya each fail to teach or suggest at least these claim features.

Solbeck discloses an apparatus for depositing threads along and around a supporting cylinder 5 to make net material. Col. 2, ll. 33-59. Solbeck suggests advancing the net material along the cylinder 5. See, e.g., Col. 2, ll. 42-46; and col. 3, ll. 34-45. However, Solbeck does not teach or suggest doing so with "at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the [cylinder 5] to push the coils along said geometric axis." Rather, Solbeck suggests pulling the net material along cylinder 5 from a downstream end of the net material. See Col. 3, ll. 34-45.

Andreevskaya discloses an apparatus for manufacturing a nonwoven fiber material by producing a tube of fibers and cutting the tube. Col. 1, ll. 26-37. Andreevskaya's apparatus includes a delivery means 5 that includes conveyors 6 arranged around a vertical shaft 8. Col. 2, ll. 65-70. Andreevskaya discloses forming a tube of the nonwoven fiber material by winding yarn around the delivery means 5. Col. 3, ll. 66-72; and col. 4, ll. 15-18. Andreevskaya discloses that this process involves moving the nonwoven fiber material downward along the delivery means 5. Col. 4, ll. 15-21. However, Andreevskaya does not teach or suggest doing so with "at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the [delivery means 5] to push the coils along said geometric axis" as recited in the claims. Rather, Andreevskay discloses operating the conveyors 6 of the delivery means 5 itself to advance the nonwoven fiber material. Col. 4, ll. 15-21.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Solbeck and Andreevskaya neither anticipate nor render obvious claims 68, 70, and 71-74. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and/or 103(a) based on Solbeck or Andreevskaya.

Rejection of Claims 68, 70, 71, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Based on Pedersen

Applicant respectfully submits that Pedersen does not anticipate claims 68, 70, 71, and 78. An apparatus according to any of these claims includes, *inter alia*, "at least one device for translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region, wherein said at least one device for translating includes at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that Pedersen does not teach or suggest these claim features.

Pedersen discloses a process of producing a sheet of thermoplastic material by winding a filament of the thermoplastic material around a drum 1 to form a tube of the thermoplastic material, followed by cutting the thermoplastic material. Page 1, ll. 42-50; page 2, l. 126-page 3, l. 44. Pedersen discloses translating the tube of thermoplastic material along the drum 1 using either a stop ring 5 or a roller 13 mounted to a spindle 14. Page 3, ll. 16-44, 50-56, and 70-73. However, Pedersen does not teach or suggest translating the stop ring 5 or the roller 13 relative to the drum 1. Thus, Pedersen does not teach or suggest the claim features of "at least one pusher element that translates with respect to the [drum 1] to push the coils along said geometric axis."

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Pedersen cannot anticipate claims 68, 70, 71, and 78. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Pedersen.

Rejection of Claims 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Waldron and Solbeck

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 48-51 are non-obvious over Waldron and Solbeck. A process according to any of claims 48-51 includes, *inter alia*, “translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the forming support to push the coils along said geometric axis with the pusher element” (emphasis added). As discussed above, Waldron does not teach or suggest these claim features. Solbeck, cited because it “suggests winding the reinforcement around the forming surface with the reinforcement guided coaxially and then away from the axis and then toward the forming surface” (Office Action at p. 9), does not cure the foregoing deficiencies of Waldron.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron and Solbeck cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 48-51. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Waldron and Colson.

Rejection of Claims 63 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Waldron and Colson

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 63 and 64 are non-obvious over Waldron and Colson. A process according to any of claims 63 and 64 includes, *inter alia*, “translating the coils along said geometric axis to a cutting region by moving at least one pusher element with respect to the forming support to push the coils along

said geometric axis with the pusher element" (emphasis added). As discussed above, Waldron does not teach or suggest these claim features. Colson, cited only for the proposition that "[c]ontinuously collecting a sheet formed by slitting a sheet would have been obvious" (Office Action at p. 9), does not cure the foregoing deficiencies of Waldron.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Waldron and Colson cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 63 and 64. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Waldron and Colson.

New Claims 83-85

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 83-85, each of which depends from one of independent claims 42 and 68, patentably distinguishes over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons that claims 42 and 68 do. Accordingly, Applicant requests examination and allowance of new claims 83-85.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Application No. 10/581,915
Attorney Docket No. 07040.0260
Reply- Filed July 29, 2011

If the Examiner believes a telephone conversation might advance prosecution,
the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned agent at 202-408-4492.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 29, 2011

By: Neil T. Powell
Neil T. Powell
Reg. No. 45,020
(202) 408-4492